

**Regular Meeting
Borough of Leonia
Minutes for October 5, 2005**

A Meeting of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Leonia, Bergen County, New Jersey, was held this evening in the Borough Hall Annex, commencing at 7:34pm

Council Present: Mayor Laurence Cherchi, Councilwoman Heveran, Councilman LaBianco, Councilwoman Mitrani, Councilman Puzzo, Council President Ryan

Council Absent: Councilwoman Dwarica

Also Present: Fran Lehmann, Borough Clerk, David Russo, Borough Attorney, Victoria Miragliotta, Borough Administrator

Mayor Laurence Cherchi called the meeting to order.

Mayor Laurence Cherchi asked everyone to stand while Council President Ryan led in the Pledge of Allegiance.

OPEN MEETING STATEMENT

Conditions of the Open Meeting Act have been met by Notice placed on the Bulletin Board at Borough Hall and notices sent to the Official Newspaper.

Mayor Cherchi pointed out the Fire Exits to those assembled.

Mayor Cherchi asked for a moment of silence for former Mayor John Stenken who recently passed away.

PRESENTATION

The presentation by the Historic Preservation Commission was postponed until October 24th.

OPEN PUBLIC SESSION

No one spoke.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Council President Ryan made a motion to adopt the Minutes of September 7, 2005, seconded by Councilwoman Heveran. Roll call vote; Councilpersons Heveran, LaBianco, Mitrani, Ryan and Puzzo voted yes. Councilwoman Dwarica was absent. Minutes approved.

47
48 Council President Ryan made a motion to adopt the Closed Session Minutes of
49 September 7, 2005 seconded by Councilwoman Mitrani. Roll call vote; Councilpersons
50 Heveran, LaBianco, Mitrani, Ryan and Puzzo voted yes. Councilwoman Dwarica was
51 absent. Minutes approved.

52
53 Council President Ryan made a motion to adopt the Minutes of September 19, 2005,
54 seconded by Councilwoman Mitrani. Roll call vote; Councilpersons Heveran, LaBianco,
55 Mitrani, Ryan and Puzzo voted yes. Councilwoman Dwarica was absent. Minutes
56 approved.

57 58 **RESOLUTIONS**

59 Councilwoman Heveran questioned a bill on page 14 for Mr. Glasson. Mayor Cherchi
60 reported it is the Borough's portion of the Police Arbitration bill.

61 Councilman LaBianco asked to pull 05-233 for a separate vote..

62 Councilwoman Heveran made a motion to approve Resolution 05-230 through 05-232
63 and Resolution 05-234, seconded by Council President Ryan.

64 Roll call vote; Councilpersons Heveran, Mitrani, Ryan and Puzzo voted yes. Councilman
65 LaBianco voted no. Councilwoman Dwarica was absent. Resolutions approved.

66
67 Resolution 05-233 – Councilman LaBianco disagreed with the blanket increase for non-
68 union personnel. Councilman LaBianco feels the money could be distributed differently,
69 by giving more to those who deserve it and less to others. Councilman LaBianco feels
70 that the Council has missed the opportunity to reward those who work hard and send a
71 message to those who are not working to potential that they need to improve.

72 Councilwoman Heveran explained the position of the Personnel and Finance Committee.
73 The Committee feels that it would not be proper at this time not to give an equal raise to
74 everyone, as the non-union personnel have not been given the guidelines for the incentive
75 on which merit increase would be based. These guidelines will be prepared and given to
76 all non-union employees the beginning of next year. Councilwoman Mitrani agreed with
77 Councilwoman Heveran.

78 Council President Ryan made a motion to approve Resolution 05-233 seconded by
79 Councilwoman Mitrani. Roll call vote Councilpersons Heveran, Mitrani and Ryan voted
80 yes. Councilman LaBianco and Puzzo voted no. Resolution approved.

81 82 **ADOPTION OF ORDINANCE**

83
84 Adoption of Bond Ordinance 15-05 entitled:

85 **ORDINANCE AMENDING AND SUPPLEMENTING CHAPTER 46 OF THE**
86 **CODE OF THE BOROUGH OF LEONIA ENTITLED "PERSONNEL**
87 **POLICIES"**

88 **Public Hearing**

89
90 **Borough Clerk Read the Ordinance by Title**

91 **Borough Administrator Explained the Need for the Ordinance**
92

Councilwoman Mitrani made a motion to adopt on final reading Ordinance 15-05, seconded by Councilman Ryan.

ROLL CALL Councilperson Heveran, LaBianco, Mitrani, Ryan, and Puzzo voted yes. Councilwoman Dwarica was absent. Ordinance 15-05 adopted.

INTRODUCTION OF ORDINANCE

Introduction of Ordinance 16-05 entitled:

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING AND SUPPLEMENTING CHAPTER 49, SECTION 4 OF THE CODE OF THE BOROUGH OF LEONIA, COUNTY OF BERGEN, STATE OF NEW JERSEY, ENTITLED "POLICE DEPARTMENT - TABLE OF ORGANIZATION"

Councilperson LaBianco made a motion, seconded by Councilperson Ryan to Introduce on First Reading Ordinance 16-05.

Both Councilwoman Heveran and Councilman Puzzo feel that Chief Ziegler should have the opportunity to review and make recommendations on the Ordinance.

Mayor Cherchi stated, that there needs to be some changes; for example, it should say "there should be nineteen (19) police officers including the above ranks and there may be twenty (20) officers when the department is anticipating a retirement."

"Section D" "The currently ranking officer on duty in any shift shall be in charge of the Department" section is in conflict with another section 49-41A2 which state the "Chief of Police delineates who is to be in command among persons of equal rank." Mayor Cherchi suggested deleting section D. Councilman LaBianco suggested that it should read that the Chief makes the recommendation and the Governing Body has to approve promotions and rank. Council President Ryan agreed that there are things that need to be clarified.

Councilman LaBianco withdrew his motion to Introduce Ordinance 16-05. Council President Ryan withdrew his second on the motion by Councilman LaBianco.

Councilperson Ryan made a motion seconded by Councilperson Mitrani to postpone the Introduction of Ordinance 16-05 until the Police Commission has the opportunity to meet with Chief Ziegler. Roll call vote; Councilpersons Heveran, LaBianco, Mitrani, Ryan and Puzzo voted yes. Councilwoman Dwarica was absent. Motion carried. The Ordinance will be amended and on the agenda for October 24, 2005.

Introduction of Ordinance 17-05 entitled:

139
140 **AN ORDINANCE TO FIX OR REPORT SALARIES, WAGES OR**
141 **COMPENSATION AND TO ESTABLISH SALARY & WAGE RANGES**
142 **OF CERTAIN OFFICERS, EMPLOYEES AND PUBLIC SERVANTS OF**
143 **THE BOROUGH OF LEONIA, IN THE COUNTY OF BERGEN AND**
144 **STATE OF NEW JERSEY, FOR THE YEAR BEGINNING AND**
145 **RETROACTIVE TO JANUARY 1, 2005**
146

147 Introduction of Ordinance 17-05 entitled:

148
149 Councilperson Ryan made a motion, seconded by Councilperson Puzzo
150 to Introduce on First Reading Ordinance 17-05.

151
152 Councilman LaBianco would like the maximum for the Police Chief reduced to
153 \$130,000

154 Councilperson LaBianco made a motion to amend the line item for Police Chief
155 maximum salary from \$161,200 to \$130,000, seconded by Councilwoman
156 Mitrani.

157 Roll call vote; Councilpersons LaBianco, Mitrani, Ryan, and Puzzo voted yes.

158 Councilwoman Heveran voted no. Councilwoman Dwarica was absent.

159 Amendment approved.
160

161 Roll call vote on Ordinance as amended; Councilpersons Heveran, LaBianco,
162 Mitrani, Ryan and Puzzo voted yes, Councilwoman Dwarica was absent.
163 Ordinance 17-05 introduced as amended.
164

165 **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**
166

167 a. Madonna Cemetery – Mayor Cherchi read a memo into the record. (a copy of
168 which is in the meeting file). Councilman Puzzo would like to have the Borough
169 Engineer, Mr. Job review the addition of the gate and the grading of the walkway.
170 Councilwoman Heveran would like the residents who were in attendance, in the
171 past regarding the gate be invited to any meeting in which the Council will take
172 action on Madonna Cemetery.
173

174 b. 9-1-1 Equipment- The Borough Administrator reviewed her findings.
175 Councilman LaBianco this should continue to be reviewed and when the County
176 has its coverage available, we should join them
177

178 **NEW BUSINESS**
179

- 180 a. Proposed Ordinances by Traffic Officer – Mayor Cherchi brought to the attention
181 of the Governing Body the proposed no left/no right turns from Sgt. Carlson.
182 Councilman LaBianco brought up concerns of forcing traffic to Park Avenue near
183 a school at the Episcopal Church. Councilwoman Mitrani said the concern is
184 people trying to get across Station Parkway. Councilman LaBianco suggested

185 appealing to the State for a light at that intersection. Councilman LaBianco would
186 like to see the Station Parkway issue dropped for the "no right turn." The Council
187 would like to see traffic counts and the number of accidents for that area. The
188 Borough Administrator would contact Sgt. Carlson

189
190 Councilwoman Mitrani reported that the Crescent Avenue suggestion is in the
191 area of the ACS School. Councilman Puzzo suggested that the road should be
192 blocked off in that area the same as St. John's. The Council is in agreement with
193 the suggestion of changing the area around the ACS School. The engineer and the
194 attorney will do the necessary reviews. The Ordinance will be on the agenda for
195 the beginning of November.

196
197 Sgt. Carlson has also proposed an increase in fines for trucks. After a discussion
198 the Council agreed to Sgt. Carlson's suggestion for increasing the fines.
199

- 200 b. Enforcement Information to New Residents – Councilwoman Mitrani would like
201 to have information disseminated to new residents. Councilwoman Heveran
202 reported that Mr. Saitta is trying to put together a packet of information. The
203 Borough Administrator does not feel that we have the staff to do this. Councilman
204 LaBianco suggested that they are sent to the apartment landlords and real estate
205 offices and they can give the information to the new tenants or the new owners.
206 The Borough Administrator feels this is great idea but implementing the program
207 will have to be worked out. Mayor Cherchi said this used to be done by volunteer
208 organizations. Mayor Cherchi feels the recycling calendar should be given to all
209 the new residents.
210
- 211 c. Procedures for Agenda Items – Councilwoman Heveran read a memo to the
212 members of Governing Body. Councilwoman Heveran spoke regarding items that
213 have been removed from the agenda without notifying the individual.
214 Councilwoman Heveran also asked Mayor Cherchi not to put someone's name
215 next to something they did not request be on the agenda. Mayor Cherchi
216 responded a name is put on the items so there is a trail when someone puts
217 something on the agenda.
218
- 219 d. Citizen Hotline for Complaints – Councilwoman Mitrani referred to an e-mail that
220 she received from a resident asking where to report a problem. Councilwoman
221 Mitrani suggested having an answering machine where residents could call in and
222 have someone from Borough Hall review the messages once a day and send them
223 to the appropriate office. Mayor Cherchi said we have a written complaint system
224 and it should be utilized. This system gives a paper trail and it is more efficient to
225 have a form filled out. Councilwoman Mitrani feels a phone with an answering
226 machine would be a better solution people who have complaints or questions
227 don't want to come to Borough Hall and ask questions or fill out a complaint
228 form. The Governing Body held a discussion regarding the pros and cons of
229 having an answering machine. Councilwoman Mitrani feels that perhaps we could
230 put more money in the budget to have someone do this.

- 231
232 e. Fee Increases for the Building Department – Councilwoman Mitrani would like
233 everyone to think about increasing the fees for the Building Department. The
234 Borough Administrator will contact Mr. Porrino regarding increasing fees.
235
236 f. Boarding House Rules and Enforcement – Councilwoman Mitrani feels there is a
237 need for more enforcement regarding illegal boarding houses. Councilwoman
238 Mitrani referred to an article regarding a neighboring municipality. Councilman
239 LaBianco suggested having a meeting with Carmey Cross who does enforcement
240 for the Board of Education. Maybe we could utilize his efforts. The Borough
241 Administrator will contact Mr. Cross.
242
243 g. Decals for Unmarked Vehicles – Councilman LaBianco thanked the Borough
244 Administrator for getting the several vehicles marked. Several vehicles at the road
245 department have been done. There are a few police vehicles that have not been
246 marked such as the Chief's car and the detective bureau. Councilman LaBianco
247 does not feel that the Chief's vehicle should remain unmarked. This item was
248 referred to the Police Commission for suggestion and/or solution.
249
250 h. Four Way Stop Signs Ridgeland Terrace and Grandview – Councilman Puzzo
251 feels we need to slow the traffic on Ridgeland and Grandview. Not only do we
252 need to have the stop signs but also need to mark the roads better. Mayor Cherchi
253 feels that some of these things should be done when we do the streets. This
254 intersection needs to be squared off, and have the street marked better.
255
256 Councilman Puzzo made a motion to have an Ordinance prepared for a 4-way
257 stop sign at Ridgeland Terrace and Grandview Avenue, seconded by Councilman
258 LaBianco. All in favor none opposed.
259
260 Letters will be sent to the homeowners in the area advising them of the
261 Ordinance.
262
263

264 COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC

265
266 Martin Monaco – 352 Highwood Avenue –Mr. Monaco spoke regarding the stop signs on
267 Glenwood Avenue and Crescent Avenue in the area of the ACS School.
268

269 Resolution 05-235 - Councilwoman Puzzo made a motion to approve Resolution 05-235,
270 seconded by Councilwoman Mitrani. The Borough Clerk read the Resolution for the
271 record. Roll call vote; Councilpersons Heveran, LaBianco, Mitrani, Ryan and Puzzo
272 voted yes. Councilwoman Dwarica was absent. Resolution approved.
273

274 CLOSED SESSION (RESOLUTION O)

276 A motion was made by Councilman Puzzo, seconded by Councilwoman Heveran to go
277 into Closed Session. All in favor none opposed.

278
279 Councilman Puzzo explained the proposed presentation by Verizon.

280
281 Resolution 05-236 - NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the longevity of
282 Frank Cerbo, John Villareal, Art Van Zillen, and Mark Wells going forward be folded
283 into their base salary.

284
285 Councilman Puzzo made a motion to approve Resolution 05-236, seconded by Council
286 President Ryan. Roll call vote; Councilpersons Heveran, LaBianco, Mitrani, Ryan and
287 Puzzo voted yes. Councilwoman Dwarica was absent. Resolution 05-236 approved.

288
289 Councilwoman Heveran made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:40PM, seconded by
290 Councilman Ryan. All in favor none opposed.

291
292
293 Respectfully submitted,

294 

295
296 Fran Lehmann
297 Borough Clerk
298